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CHAMAAG BRUSSELS

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USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

URSNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 1377

E.O. 11652: GDS 12-31-80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: MARCH 12 DRC EXAMINATION OF NATO FORCE PROPOSALS/GOALS-
UK AND LUXEMBOURG

REF: A. STATE 048057/1

B. ANNEX 7 TO APPENDIX D TO ENCLOSURE 1 TO MC-14-74,
"FORCE PROPOSALS 1975-1980"

C. ANNEX 12 TO APPENDIX D TO ENCLOSURE 1 TO MC -14-74,
" FORCE PROPOSALS 1975-1980"

SUMMARY: DRC ADDRESSED NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES (NMA'S)
1975-1980 FORCE PROPOSALS FOR LUXEMBOURG AND UNITED KINGDOM
ON MARCH 12. PRIOR TO MEETING, MISSION CIRCULATED WASHINGTON
LIST OF ESSENTIAL UK FORCE PROPOSALS (REF A) AND INFORMED
DELEGATIONS THAT SIMILAR LIST FOR LUXEMBOURG WOULD BE DIS-
TRIBUTED LATER. CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS CITED US PROPOSALS
DURING INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BUT DELAYED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION
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ON US PROCEDURES FOR DETERMINING ESSENTIAL FORCE PROPOSALS
UNTIL MARCH 13 DRC MEETING. LUXEMBOURG REP GENERALLY ACCEPTED
ALL FORCE PROPOSALS EXCEPT PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RIFLE
COMPANY FOR THE BATTALION COMMITTED TO ACE. UK REPS CITED

ECONOMIC AND MILITARY REASONS FOR REJECTING SEVERAL FORCE PROPOSALS, BUT ACCEPTED SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THOSE PUT FORWARD BY NMA'S. END SUMMARY.

1. DRC DISCUSSED IN TURN NMA 1975-1980 FORCE PROPOSALS FOR LUXEMBOURG AND UK ON MARCH 12 LUXEMBOURG REP OBJECTED TO PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL RIFLE COMPANY FOR THE BATTALION COMMITTED TO ACE (SERIAL 1L06, REF B). HE SAID ONE RIFLE COMPANY WAS ONLY CAPABILITY UNDER NATIONAL CONTROL FOR TERRITORIAL DEFENSE AND THAT MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT WITH ADDITIONAL MILITARY PERSONNEL WAS PRECLUDED BY NATIONAL LAW. SHAPE REP SUGGESTED LUXEMBOURG DEVELOP RESERVE CADRE FOR TERRITORIAL DEFENSE ROLE. CITING THIS POSSIBILITY, CHAIRMAN SUCCESSFULLY URGED DRC DECISION TO UPHOLD FORCE PROPOSALS AS "REASONABLE CHALLENGE" FOR LUXEMBOURG. LUXEMBOURG REP ALSO OBJECTED TO IMPLEMENTING LIMITED LOW LEVEL AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY PRIOR TO WIDER ALLIED CONSENSUS ON SPECIFIC WEAPON SYSTEM (SERIAL 1L02, REF B). DRC UPHELD FORCE PROPOSAL AND URGED THAT LUXEMBOURG FINALIZE CHOICE OF WEAPON SYSTEM WITH APPROPRIATE ATTENTION TO STANDARDIZATION WITHIN AMF.

2. DURING INTRODUCTION TO EXAMINATION OF UK FORCE GOALS, CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS CITED IMPRESSIVE LEVEL OF CURRENT UK DEFENSE SPENDING AS PERCENTAGE OF GNP BUT OUTLINED FUTURE UNCERTAINTIES ARISING FROM RECENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES AND CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT. FRG REP ASKED WHAT PROPORTION OF UK'S DEFENSE EFFORTS WENT TO NATO. UK REP ANSWERED OVER 90 PERCENT. FRG AND NORWEGIAN REPS SAID PERCENTAGE OF GNP EXPENDED FOR DEFENSE WAS A "SOMEWHAT CRUDE" YARDSTICK FOR EVALUATING DEFENSE EFFORTS TOWARD NATO IN OTHER COUNTRIES WHERE SUBSTANTIAL DEFENSE EFFORTS WERE DIRECTED TOWARD NON-NATO OBJECTIVES. HUMPHREYS SAID SUCH PERCENTAGES WERE "BLUNT" BUT PROVIDED ONE USEFUL EVALUATION FACTOR. US REP (CLINARD) SAID PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED LIST OF "ESSENTIAL" FORCE PROPOSALS FOR 1975-1980 REPRESENTED US VIEW OF A "REASONABLE CHALLENGE" FOR UK AND WERE BASED ON A PROJECTED UK GNP SOMEWHAT MORE PESSIMISTIC THAN IS PREDICTIONS. HUMPHREYS DEFERRED SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION OF US PROCEDURES FOR CONFIDENTIAL

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DETERMINING "REASONABLE CHALLENGE" UNTIL MARCH 13 DRC MEETING.

3. UK ACCEPTED MAJORITY OF FORCE PROPOSALS CONSIDERED "ESSENTIAL" BY US (REF A). SIGNIFICANT EXCEPTIONS FOLLOW. UK REP AGREED TO FURTHER INVESTIGATE COMMAND TRANSFER OF EW UNITS TO MNC'S AT SIMPLE ALERT BUT DISPUTED NECESSITY TO EQUIP SUCH UNITS WITH MOBILE ESM/ECM CAPABILITIES (SERIAL 1L05, REF C). UK REP SAID COST WOULD PRECLUDE COMPLETION OF RADAR AND INFRA-RED COUNTER MEASURE CAPABILITIES FOR ARMY HELICOPTERS/ AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO 1980 (SERIAL 1L08). UK REPS CITED COST AND DEGRADATION OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IN OBJECTING TO PROPOSAL FOR PROVIDING HOWITZER CONVENTIONAL CAPABILITIES (SERIAL 1L13). DESPITE UK OBJECTIONS, DRC RETAINED SUBSTANCE OF ALL ABOVE

FORCE PROPOSALS. DRC REVISED SERIAL 1M01S TO REQUEST THAT UK UPGRADE 3 DDH'S TO CATEGORY A1 BY END-1975 AND THAT UK COMMIT TO SACEUR ONE ADDITIONAL DLG WITH APPROPRIATE COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT BY END1979. UK REPS AGREED TO CONTINUE PRODUCTION OF FRIGATES BUT FOR ECONOMIC REASONS WOULD NOT GUARANTEE REPLACEMENT OF OLDER UNITS ON A ONE-FOR-ONE BASIS (SERIAL 2M05). THEY ACCEPTED SERIAL 2M11 BUT STATED THAT REECISE METHOD FOR AMPHIBIOUS TRANSPORT OF NATO-EARMARKED ROYAL MARINE COMMANDOS WAS STILL UNDER STUDY. UK REP SAID BRITISH HAD EXAMINED ANTI-AIR MISSILE SYSTEM FOR SUBMARINES (SEA BLOWPIPE) AND REJECTED IT ON OPERATIONAL GROUNDS. DRC REVISED SERIAL 2M31 CALLING FOR SUCH A SYSTEM TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL STUDY. COMMENT: DOES WASHINGTON HAVE ANALYSES FROM SIMILAR US STUDIES OR US PLANS FOR SYSTEM OF OUR OWN TO SUPPORT PROPOSAL? IF SO, REQUEST DETAILS. END COMMENT. UK REP AGREED TO ACCEPT PROPOSAL FOR CONTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT SHELTERS FROM NATIONAL FUNDS (SERIAL 1A15) BUT SAID UK HAD NO CURRENT PLANS TO MEET REQUIREMENT.

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4. UK REPS OBJECTED ON FINANCIAL GROUNDS TO SEVERAL PROPOSALS NOT LISTED AS ESSENTIAL BY US. DRC AGREED TO DELETE OR SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE PROPOSALS CALLING FOR UNDERWATER SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS IN BIBRALTER STRAITS, (SERIAL 1M055) FOR THE INCREASE OF 6 NIMROD'S COMMITTED TO NMC'S (SERIAL 1A025), FOR THE PROVISION OF SHORE BASED ASW HELICOPTERS EARMARKED TO SACLANT/CINCEASTLANT, (SERIAL 2M12) FOR THE PROVISION OF ADDITIONAL SHORE BASED MARITIME AIR DEFENSE AIRCRAFT TO

SACLANT (SERIAL 2A18) AND FOR THE PROVISION OF AN ADDITIONAL 6 VAP AIRCRAFT AT SACLANT (SERIAL 2A17). UK REPS AGREED TO INCREASE RECCE SQUADRON UE BY 3 AIRCRAFT BUT DRC DELETED SIMILAR REQUIREMENT FOR AWX SQUADRONS ON CONDITION THAT UK FIND MEANS FOR INCREASING AVAILABLE AWX AIRCRAFT DURING EMERGENCIES (SERIAL 1A04).

5. DURING CLOSING REMARKS, CHAIRMAN HUMPHREYS SAID DRC-APPROVED FORCE PROPOSALS PROVIDED UK WITH A "REASONABLE CHALLENGE." AGAIN REFERRING TO UK ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE STATED THAT DRC REVISIONS TO THE NMA FORCE PROPOSAL PACKAGE APPEARED TO HAVE REDUCED PROPOSED UK EXPENDITURES DURING 1975-1980 BY APPROXIMATELY 350 MILLION POUNDS STERLING. RUMSFELD

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